



U.S. Congressman

Mark Steven Kirk

Proudly serving the people of the 10th District of Illinois

**** U.S. Congressman Mark Steven Kirk, Proudly Serving the People of the 10th District of Illinois ******Website - About Mark - Press Room - Constituent Services - Issues - Contact****How should we cut federal spending and fight the deficit?**

(Please choose all the options you support)

- ☐ Enact the line item veto.
- ☐ Enact a Balanced Budget Amendment.
- ☐ Adopt Congressional spending reforms on pork barrel projects.
- ☐ Increase taxes on capital gains.
- ☐ Increase the death tax.
- ☐ Maintain the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) unreformed

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Dear Friends:

Six years ago, our nation was moving into a recession with the end of the "dot.com" bubble, followed by September 11th. Six years later, America's economy is doing better than the economies of Japan, Germany, France, Italy or the United Kingdom. We know that bad news sells and good news snores -- nevertheless, take a look at America's economy.

Declining Deficit

Over the last three years, our national deficit has been reduced by \$208 billion. We need to cut spending more -- that is why I won House approval for the Kirk amendment banning funding for the \$320 million Alaskan "Bridget to Nowhere," voted for the line-item veto and the Balanced Budget Amendment. I also backed "earmark" reform, now the new rule of the House, to block pork barrel projects.

The Stock Market is Up

On Thursday, the Dow closed above 12,000 -- an all-time high. This increase of over 2,500 points since 2003 enhanced the value of our 401(k) plans and 529 college savings accounts, as well as helped many individuals grow their own nest egg.

**Increasing Domestic Growth**

During the last three years, the national GDP expanded at an average annual rate of 3.7 percent, and business investment increased by 6.6 percent per year. Brisk GDP growth makes the U.S. economy the envy of the world, and keeps Chicago at the top of the list of cities that will be among the global business centers in the 21st century.

Decreasing Gas Prices

Oil prices continue to fall from a summertime high of \$78 a barrel to the current price of \$58 a barrel, slowing inflation. This is very good news, especially for seniors. In the Chicagoland area, we have seen the price of gas decrease over a dollar per gallon in the past three months. To keep gas prices low, I promote policies such as an increase in fuel economy standards for all cars and trucks and the increased production of renewable fuels, such as E85 ethanol.

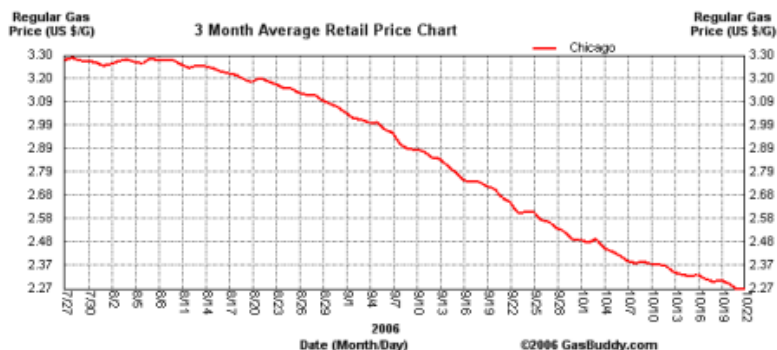
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Declining Unemployment

More than 6.5 million jobs were created in the past three years, bringing the national unemployment rate from a high of 6.3 percent in mid-2003 to just 4.6 percent today. In Illinois, unemployment rates are even lower at 4.4 percent. These rates are lower than the average of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Moreover, the decelerated inflation rates and accelerated domestic growth rates combined to generate a 2.2 percent increase in average real wages over the past year, giving families more money in their pockets.

Conclusion

We have to do more to cut spending and boost economic growth but the economic trends for the United States look good. Many countries and many Prime Ministers would trade America's economic growth for their own economic statistics.

Very truly yours,

Sincerely,

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